

# NEWS RELEASE



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### NEBRASKA'S JUNE 1, 2004 ACREAGE REPORT

LINCOLN, Neb., June 30, 2004 -- Nebraska producers increased acreage devoted to corn, soybeans, winter wheat (planted last fall), and sugarbeets while decreasing acreage devoted to hay, sorghum, millet, oats, dry edible beans, and sunflowers according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. "Corn and soybean plantings in Nebraska have followed the higher cash prices; while alfalfa acreage declined as prices have retreated from the record high levels of 2002," noted Mark Harris, Director Nebraska Agricultural Statistics.

Nebraska **corn** growers planted 8.3 million acres in 2004, up 2 percent from last year but 1 percent below 2002. Biotechnology varieties accounted for 60 percent of the planted acreage, up from 52 percent last year.

**Soybean** producers planted 4.75 million acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. The 2004 plantings are the second highest of record, 4 percent below the record high of 4.95 million set in 2001. Of these acres, 92 percent are planted to biotechnology varieties resistant to herbicides, up from 86 percent last year.

Last fall **winter wheat** was sown on 1.95 million acres, up 3 percent from a year earlier and the largest acreage since the 1997 crop.

**Sorghum** growers planted 550,000 acres, 17 percent less than 2003 but up 22 percent from 2002.

**Alfalfa Hay** acreage for harvest, at 1.25 million, is down 14 percent from last year while other types of hay cut are down 9 percent. **Oat** seedings, at 140,000 acres, are down 36 percent from 2003. **Dry edible bean** producers planted 130,000 acres, down 16 percent from a year earlier. **Sugarbeet** plantings of 49,900 acres are up 10 percent from 2003. **Sunflower** acreage of 41,000 is down 38 percent from a year ago. **Proso Millet** plantings at 180,000 acres, are down 10 percent from 2003.

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